

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ORM-02 AID-05 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 SCA-01 /042 W
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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3679
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KINSHASA 4775

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, CG
SUBJECT: CABINDAN REFUGEES IN ZAIRE

REF: A) STATE 113280; B) KINSHASA 4546; C) STATE 108153;
D) KINSHASA 4261; E) KINSHASA 3594; F) KINSHASA 878
G) KINSHASA 3074

1. ACCORDING TO BEST INFORMATION EMBASSY HAS BEEN ABLE TO
ASSEMBLE, FOLLOWING ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO CABINDAN
REFUGEES:

A) IRC:

1) JANUARY 19 AT MBUKU TEMBE: 900 KG SALT; 150 KG SUGAR;
2,500 KG RICE; 1,500 KG BEANS; 125 KG CANNED FISH; 50 KG SARDINES;
100 KG POWDERED MILK; 20 KG CORNED BEEF; 1,600 CAKES SOAP; 160
CARTONS DETERGENT; 100 BLANKETS; ONE CARTON TEA; 140 MACHETES;
50 HOE-HEADS; AND MISCELLANEOUS TOOLS AND LANTERNS.

2) FEBRUARY 7 AT NGANDA MBEMBA: 250 KG SALT; 500 KG SUGAR;
4,500 KG RICE; 1,000 KG BEANS; 15 KG CANNED FISH; 10 KG
POWDERED MILK; 45 KG CORNED BEEF; 20 KG CANNED PORK; 1,250 CAKES
SOAP; AND 50 BLANKETS. ALSO 500 ZAIRES TO KUIMBA HOSPITAL TO FEED
KWASHIORKOR INFANTS BROUGHT BY DR. BADOUX.

3) MARCH 1 AT MBUKU TEMBE: 250 KG SUGAR; 1,500 KG BEANS;
50 BLANKETS.

4) MAY 9 AT KUIMBA HOSPITAL: 1,000 KG BEANS; 250 KG
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DIRED FISH; 50 BLANKETS; AND 48 BOTTLES OF PLASMA. ALSO 6 BOTTLES
OF GLUCOSE TO KINKONZE HOSPITAL, A FIRST AID DISPENSARY KIT AT
NTOMBO YENGA, AND AN EMERGENCY PLASMA KIT TO KIZU HOSPITAL.

5) MAY 16 AT KIZU HOSPITAL: \$200 WORTH OF MEDICINES.

B. CARITAS: ORGANIZATION HAS A SMALL OPERATION IN BAS
ZAIRE DUE TO LIMITED RESOURCES, IT HAS RECEIVED \$7,000 WORTH
OF FOOD (CONSISTING OF RICE, BEANS, SUGAR AND MILK) AND \$14,000

OF MEDICINES FROM CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES. THIS MATERIAL IS SENT TO KUIMBA HOSPITAL, MBUKA TEMBE, AND TO ABBE SERGIO MACAIA OF THE CABINDAN FATHERS AT TSHELA. ABBE MACAIA THEN DISTRIBUTES THE FOOD TO REFUGEES, SO FAR CARITAS HAS MADE THESE DELIVERIES ON OR ABOUT MARCH 2, APRIL 15 AND MAY 17. THE ORGANIZATION HAS ALSO DELIVERED 12 CASES OF MEDICINE TO REFUGEES:

C. EGLISE AU ZAIRE (ECZ):

1) WHILE ECZ DOES NOT HAVE A REFUGEE BUDGET IT RECEIVED \$5,000 IN EARLY FEBRUARY FROM CHURCH WORLD SERVICE FOR CABINDAN REFUGEE ASSISTANCE. THEY DISTRIBUTED 48 SACKS OF RICE (50 KG EACH) AND 10 CARTONS OF FISH AT MBUKU-TEMBE ON MARCH 2. AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER ECZ ASSISTANCE.

D. TEAR FUNDS:

1) THIS DUTCH ORGANIZATION HAS REPORTEDLY DELIVERED 80 SACKS OF RICE AND 24 CARTONS OF MILK AT MBUKU-TEMBE.

2. MEDICAL: SOME OF THE REFUGEES' MEDICAL NEEDS ARE BEING MET BY DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS WHICH WERE ALREADY OPERATING IN THE AREA. ECZ HAS A DENTIST WORKING IN TSHELA AND BELGIAN ASSISTANCE SUPPORTS THE KUIMBA HOSPITAL. THE CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY ALLIANCE HOSPITAL AT KINKONZE HAS ALREADY STATED IT WOULD WELCOME ANOTHER DOCTOR, PREFERABLY WITH SURGICAL EXPERIENCE. IRC HAS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO SPONSOR THROUGH MEDICINS SANS FRONTIERES(A PRIVATE FRENCH VOLAG) A DOCTOR TO SPECIFICALLY WORK WITH THE REFUGEES. MEDICINS SANS FRONTIERS HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE A DOCTOR. IRC ALSO STATED IT WOULD PAY FOR NECESSARY LOCAL NURSES.

3. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REPORTS WHICH CAST DOUBT ON THE ACCURACY OF UNHCR FIGURES PROVIDED REF B. UNHCR IS ALREADY AWARE OF THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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AND HAS BEGUN INVESTIGATION. TO THIS DATE UNHCR HAS NOT, REPEAT, NOT HAD ANY PLAN FOR DEALING WITH CABINDAN REFUGEES. WE UNDERSTAND THEY ARE NOW PREPARING SUCH A PLAN WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY APPROXIMATELY MAY 25. THE EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT A WORKABLE PLAN (EITHER WITH UNHCR OR OTHER AUSPICES) SHOULD EITHER PROVIDE FOR FEEDING THOSE REFUGEES REMAINING WITHIN THE 20 KILOMETER ZONE OR INCLUDE THEIR MOVEMENT TO SPECIFIED RESETTLEMENT AREAS, WITH PROVISION FOR THEIR FEEDING IN PLACE UNTIL THEY CAN BE MOVED, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE MOVE AND REST SITES ENROUTE TO RESETTLEMENT AREA IF MOVE IS TO TAKE MORE THAN ONE DAY.

4. ASSESSMENT OF GAP: IN SPITE OF THE FOREGOING AND ACCORDING TO VARIOUS SOURCES WHO HAVE VISITED THE AREA, THERE ARE STILL NUMBERS OF REFUGEES WHO ARE RECEIVING LITTLE OR NO AID. THERE ARE SOME 17,000 INCLUDING 8,000 IN COLLECTIVITY OF ZOBE LUZI AND 9,000 IN LUBOLO, ALL WITHIN THE 20 KILOMETER ZONE, WHO ARE RECEIVING VERY LITTLE ASSISTANCE OTHER THAN PARTIAL MEDICAL AID. ADDITIONALLY, IRC SAYS THERE ARE

FROM 1,000 TO 2,000 MORE REFUGEES SCATTERED WITHIN THE 20 KILOMETER BELT IN LUKULA ZONE WHO ARE ALSO RECEIVING LITTLE AID. THIS IS OUT OF A MINIMUM ESTIMATED POPULATION OF 35,000 CABINDAN REFUGEES IN BAS FLEUVE (REF E). LOCAL IRC REP AND DR. BERES OF MEDICINS SANS FRONTIERS HAVE REPORTED A GREAT DEAL OF STARVATION AND WIDESPREAD ILLNESS DUE TO THE LACK OF FOOD AMONG THE REFUGEES. ACCORDING TO DR. BERES, AT MBUKU-TEMBE, WHERE THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 2,500 REFUGEES, ONE HALF OF THE CHILDREN WERE STARVING. THE ZONE COMMISSIONER FOR TSHELA TOLD THEM THAT ONLY ONE FOOD SHIPMENT HAD BEEN DISTRIBUTED SINCE HIS ARRIVAL LAST WEEK OF FEBRUARY. SOME AREAS ARE REPORTING A MINIMUM OF ONE HUNDRED NEW ARRIVALS A WEEK.

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ORM-02 AID-05 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KINSHASA 4775

5. AS NOTED IN PARA 3, UNHCR IS MAKING EFFORT TO COME TO GRIPS WITH PROBLEM. HOWEVER, TO DATE THEIR OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN BELOW PAR. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE NOTED THAT PROPOSALS MADE BY THE IRC TO COORDINATE RELIEF EFFORTS WITH THE LOCAL OFFICE HAVE FALLEN ON DEAF EARS DESPITE UNHCR STATEMENTS WO WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE. IT SHOULD ALSO BE POINTED OUT THAT UNHCR KINSHASA HAS CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINED IT HAS SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO HANDLE PROBLEM. THEIR RELUCTANCE TO COOPERATE APPEARS TO BE BASED ON LOCAL BUREAUCRATIC AN POLICY CONSIDERATIONS. WE KNOW, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT PROPOSAL HAD BEEN MADE TO UNHCR THAT VOLAGS DISTRIBUTE UNHCR PROVIDED FOOD TO REFUGEES IN 20 KILOMETER ZONE REGION. THIS IDEA WAS TURNED DOWN ON THE GROUNDS THAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD STILL GO AGAINST UNHCR POLICIES. WE, THEREFORE, WONDER WHETHER FUNDS PROVIDED UNHCR FOR SPECIAL EARMARK TO VOLAGS MAY NOT ENCOUNTER BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEMS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. FOR THIS REASON, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT FUNDS CONTEMPLATED IN REFS A & C BE ALLOCATED DIRECTLY TO VOLAGS, NOTABLY IRC, WHICH COULD THEN DISBURSE THEM IN

ACCORDANCE WITH REFUGEE RELIEF NEEDS.

6. AT SAME TIME WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT CONTINUE TO PRESS UNHCR/GENEVA FOR STRONGER ACTION AND MORE REALISTIC APPROACH TO CABINDAN REFUGEE PROBLEM. WE NOTE THAT EFFORT IS ALREADY BEING MADE ALONG THESE LINES. HOWEVER, PROGRESS IN THIS AREA STILL DEPENDS ON ATTITUDE AND WILLINGNESS OF LOCAL UNHCR
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OFFICE TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS MORE CONSTRUCTIVELY AND FORCEFULLY THAN HAS BEEN THE CASE TO DATE. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, SOME OF PROBLEMS RAISED IN PARA 4 REF A ARE EXACTLY THOSE ALLUDED TO BY UNHCR HERE. AT MOMENT, THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT VOLAG ACTIVITY IN BAS FLEUVE REGION HAS ELICITED ANY UNFAVORABLE COMMENT FROM EITHER FLEC OR LUANDA. NECESSARILY, IF IT WERE ANNOUNCED THAT USG MAKING DIRECT CONTRIBUTION TO VOLAG'S FOR REFUGEE ASSISTANCE, GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA LIKELY TO INTERPRET THIS AS US SUPPORT FOR FLEC, FLEC, ON OTHER HAND, WOULD SEE CONTRIBUTION AS US HUMANITARIAN INTEREST IN PLIGHT OF REFUGEES AND WOULD WELCOME IT. SAME REACTION WOULD BE TRUE IN CASE OF GOZ, AS IT HAS INFORMALLY IN THE PAST ASKED WHETHER US WOULD BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR RELIEF ASSISTANCE. AS REGARDS RESETTLEMENT, WE ESTIMATE PROBLEM COMPLICATED BY MILITARY AND POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS AT THIS TIME. FLEC IS REPORTEDLY MOUNTING MAJOR OFFENSIVE IN CABINDA. ITS SUCCESSES MAY RESULT IN REFUGEES NOT WANTING TO LEAVE THE BORDER AREA AS LONG AS EXPECTATION OF RETURNING HOME HIGH. ALSO, FLEC, FOR POLITICAL REASONS, MAY NOT BE PREPARED TO AGREE TO RESETTLEMENT. IN ADDITION, BAS FLEUVE REGION, WHERE RESETTLEMENT IS MOST LIKELY, ALREADY FACES A SHORTAGE OF ARABLE LAND. FOR POLITICAL REASONS GOZ MAY VIEW SUCH A MOVE UNFAVORABLY AT THIS TIME. WHAT WOULD BE NEEDED WOULD BE A CAREFULLY PREPARED PLAN TO PRESENT TO THE GOZ CONVINCING IT OF THE POLITICAL WISDOM IN RESETTLEMENT.

7. CLEARLY THERE REMAIN MANY IMPONDERABLES TO CABINDAN REFUGEE PROBLEM. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE WELCOME PROPOSED VISIT BY LOWMAN. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE ON HIS TRAVEL PLANS.
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Message Attributes

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